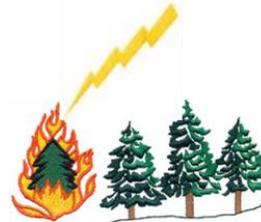


# Thompson-Divide Complex

Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team  
Irv Leach Incident Commander

Daily Fact Sheet Aug. 27, 7:00 p.m.



**Fire Information: (406) 387-4854/ (406) 314-1669, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

**Resources - Total Personnel:** 335

**Injuries:** 1

**Structures Lost:** None

**20-Person Hand Crews:** 1 type 1 and 4 type 2, 1 Wildland Fire Management Module, 1 Helitack Crew (10)

**Air Support:** Helicopters (1 Type-1 & 2 Type-3),

**Engines:** 16

**Heavy Equipment:** 4

The Thompson-Divide Complex is comprised of the Sheep and Granite Fires on the Flathead National Forest and the Thompson Fire in Glacier National Park. The Sheep fire is the incident priority as it is approaching US Hwy. 2 and the BNSF railway and is threatening the community of Essex.

**Flathead County Sheriff Chuck Curry has ordered a mandatory evacuation of Essex and the surrounding area because of increased activity on the Sheep Fire.** Sheriff's Deputies have been contacting residents who are affected by this order. For more information on the evacuation, call the Flathead County Office of Emergency Services at 406-758-2111.

At this time, **Highway 2 is closed and trains are not running.** An evacuation center is being established by the American Red Cross at the West Glacier Elementary School. Call 511 or visit <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/alerts.shtml> for current road status. For more information on Amtrak call 1-(800) 872-7245.

**There will be a public meeting tonight at the West Glacier Elementary School at 8:00 p.m.** It will be held in the gym of the school at 160 Old Bridge Road in West Glacier.

**Stage II Fire Restrictions are in effect for northwestern Montana.**

Visit <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/> for air quality info.

Closures are in effect for some trails in the vicinity of the fires for Glacier National Park and Flathead National Forest. For more info, please see the Glacier NP page <http://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm> or for Flathead NF call Hungry Horse Ranger District (406) 387-3800.

Today saw increased fire activity on the Granite and Sheep fires due to increased winds and a partial lifting of the inversion. Weather conditions will be changing going into the weekend. A cold front is approaching, with dropping temperatures Sunday. In advance of this front, winds are expected to increase Friday and Saturday. There is a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms with this advancing front. Winds will be from the southwest increasing to 15-20 mph with gusts of 25-35 on the ridges possible on Saturday. With the passage of the front, temperatures will drop 10-15 degrees with an increase in humidity.

## Sheep Fire, Flathead National Forest

Link to <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4468/>

**Structures At Risk:** 200+ structures, BNSF has several wooden snowsheds and 1 wooden trestle, utilities infrastructure  
**Approximate Size:** 1,112 acres      **Containment:** 0%      **Structures Lost:** None

**Fire Update:** The Sheep Fire is on the Flathead National Forest about 2 miles south of Essex and less than half a mile from the train tracks. It is burning in very steep terrain with limited access. The fire moved down slope today on the ridge to the south of Tank Creek. Construction of a shaded fuel break from Sheep Creek to Dickey Creek drainages started today. The objective of this fuel break is to reduce the fuel component and space the tree crowns to limit fire spread. It will also provide a safe location for firefighters if it is decided to burn out fuels in advance of the fire front. Helicopters continue to do water drops to check fire spread when visibility allows. Equipment operations started during the night to increase the amount of fuel break constructed prior to ceasing work in early afternoon because of Stage II restrictions. Structural protection will continue. A night shift continues to monitor fire movement and patrol the Essex area and Walton compound for any fire activity.

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## Granite Fire, Flathead National Forest

Link to <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4468/>

**Approximate Size:** 494 acres

**Containment:** 0%

**Fire Update:** The Granite Fire is west of Marias Pass and south of Hwy. 2 in and north of the Great Bear Wilderness. It is burning in very steep terrain in a mixed conifer forest below a ridge. Today the fire moved to the southwest in the Granite Creek area and northwest towards Patrol Ridge. Crews have implemented structural protection measures on several backcountry cabins, trailhead structures, a wooden road bridge and a radio repeater. Crews have established locations for line construction and possible shaded fuel break when sufficient crews become available for their construction. Helicopter bucket drops are being used to help check fire spread.

## Thompson Fire, Glacier National Park

Link to <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4468/>

**Approximate Size:** 17,284 acres

**Containment:** 20%

**Structures At Risk:** 2 historic cabins

**Structures Lost:** None

**Fire Update:** The Thompson Fire is located in remote south-central backcountry of Glacier National Park about 15 miles east of the West Glacier entrance in the Thompson and Nyack drainages west of the Continental Divide. Increased fire activity was seen within the fire perimeter south of Tinkham Mountain today. Firefighters in the Nyack Creek drainage finished burning and mop up in the northwest corner (Division A) of the fire and were flown out today. Pumps and hose lay are in place in case a future need arises and the fire will be monitored by air.

Most of Glacier National Park is unaffected by this wildfire complex and is available for recreational use. Limited backcountry closures are in place. For more specific visitor information, please see the website <http://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm>.

**The Thompson Fire has not impacted park roads. The Going-to-the-Sun Road is open.**

For information on the Reynolds Creek fire, please visit <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4405/#>

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